

HISTORY OF THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION FOR ADVANCEMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY PART 1: THE FORMATION OF THE IAAA

By Ferrel Anderson*

PREFACE

In preparing to write this history, I had to wrestle with several questions. The most important is: Why do we write history? This question is followed in importance by the question: What will we gain from writing it? In the process of downloading my memory, perusing hoary documents, such as meeting minutes and letters, and querying friends who were principal actors in the story, the answers to these questions became evident. They are that history puts us in contact with our origins, which causes us to consider the present: Is the IAAA of today the IAAA that was perceived at its beginning? If not, how have we changed and have we changed for the better? In summary, it gives us perspective, and serves as an anchor for the present.

Another important reason for writing and reading history is that we can learn from our actions, and hopefully can avoid the mistakes of the past.

History also has a personal aspect. I remember fondly the individuals who contributed greatly to the IAAA who have passed on. Some of these are Joe Caldwell, Don and Marion Dickson, Jerry Elliston, Wayne Shields, Denzil Stephens, and Howard Winters. It also causes me to appreciate the living members whose names and contributions will become evident as the story unfolds. There are some "villains" too.

And finally, history is romantic. It causes us to confront time, and our mortality. Hopefully this will motivate us to do better in the present.

Another question, which is really an issue, is what do we put in and what do we leave out? My answer is to not leave out anything that I feel is important to the story. One cannot include every thing in infinite

detail, so some selection processes and priorities must prevail. I hope that I and others who contribute to this history will write it to the best of our ability without prejudice and with wisdom.

This history will be divided into four parts. The first will consider the beginning, the second will cover the history from that time to the present, the third will cover the accomplishments of the IAAA, and the fourth will address where we are and what we need to do in the future. For some periods of our history I was not personally involved, and



Marion Dickson and Howard Winters at Dickson Mounds, September 10, 1965

will rely upon others for my information, or will ask others to write about these periods.

PART I: THE BEGINNING

Immediately before the seminal events that led to the formation of the IAAA, a viable community including professional and amateur archaeologists did not exist in Illinois. In fact, the atmosphere could be described as hostile. Evidently, as I understand it from oral history, a schism between the hard core collectors and archaeologists developed at a meeting of the Illinois State Archaeological Society, which up to that

time had provided an amicable collecting and archaeological community. This resulted in the exodus of professional and amateur archaeologists from the Society. As a result of this unfortunate event, the professional and amateur archaeologists were left without a forum for their important work in discovering and preserving the archaeological heritage of Illinois. This history recounts the efforts that were taken to resolve this dilemma.

The Illinois Association for Advancement of Archaeology (IAAA) was formed in a series of meetings that began on July 21, 1968 and ended on May 24, 1969. Although the May 24, 1969 date can be considered the birth date of the IAAA, its conception took place at Dickson Mounds on July 30, 1961 with the first meeting of another organization named the Council for Illinois Archaeology. Before describing the IAAA formative meetings, it is important to explore the history of the Council since its ideals and goals and the people involved became the foundation for the IAAA.

The Council for Illinois Archaeology was formed out of a need, as seen by the Illinois Archaeological Survey (IAS), to form an archaeological community in Illinois. The IAS, itself a young organization consisting primarily of professional archaeologists conducting research in Illinois, discussed whether the IAS should solicit subscribers (i.e., non-professional archaeologist members) to the IAS at a meeting held in Springfield on June 9, 1961. The IAS minutes for this meeting state:

Howard Winters suggested a different organization which would cement amateur-professional relationships. He felt it was too cumbersome to bring amateurs into the Sur-



vey, which is primarily a business organization. He suggested a Council for Illinois Archaeology be formed to which both groups would belong. A list of 15 names was suggested and Caldwell (Dr. Joseph Caldwell, Curator of Anthropology at the Illinois State

ism of this meeting was important, for it took place at an archaeological display excavated and presented by the amateur archaeologists — the Dickson Brothers. The meeting consisted of members of the IAS and amateur archaeologists invited by the IAS. IAS mem-

monthly newsletter. The elected officers were President: Jerry Elliston; Secretary-Treasurer: Ferrel Anderson; and Editor: Joseph Caldwell. It established a membership policy, which was that only members could nominate a person for membership, and that the nominated person had to be approved by two thirds of the total membership. Membership was not to exceed 30, and would consist of 26 amateur archaeologists and four professional archaeologists. It also formulated and approved a statement of ethical purposes for the Council and individual members. Important projects included the sponsorship of a bill to establish an agency to buy and protect archaeological sites, the establishment of an amateur archaeological research center and staff, and to incorporate. An important item of business addressed at the meeting was a vote of approval for the IAS plan on hosting, with the Anthropology Section of the Illinois State Academy of Science, an Illinois Archaeology Workshop for amateur archaeologists and the public on Dec. 2, 1961 at the Union Building of the University of Illinois. Each amateur member the Council was asked to submit a list of ten people who they thought would be interested in attending the Workshop.



Marion and Don Dickson

Museum) was asked to notify them of their election to participation in the Council, and to invite them to an organizational meeting at Dickson Mounds this summer. (Illinois Archaeological Survey Minutes, June 9, 1961)

Another important action taken by the IAS at this meeting would also cement amateur-professional relationships in Illinois. The minutes also state:

It was also agreed that the Survey would approach the Academy of Science to jointly sponsor an archaeological workshop in the fall. This would strengthen the anthropology section of the Academy, as well as amateur-professional relationships in archaeology. The secretary was asked to make plans for the meeting. Members of the Survey were asked to send the names and addresses of individuals to be invited to the workshop to the secretary by August 1. (Illinois Archaeological Survey Minutes, June 9, 1961)

An organizational meeting of the Council took place on July 30, 1961 at Dickson Mounds. I should point out that the symbol-

bers present at the meeting were Dr. Elaine Bluhm, Dr. Joseph Caldwell, Dr. Melvin Fowler, and Howard Winters. All but three of the invited amateur archaeologists attended, and these three later declined membership. Those who attended became permanent members of the Council. They were Ferrel Anderson, Joe Berta, Leonard Blake, Don Dickson, Marion Dickson, Joseph Dillon, Jerry Elliston, Sanford Gates, James Getz, George Grove, John Henry, Dan Morse, Alvin Nichols, Henry Rodamaker, and Denzil Stephens.

The attendees agreed upon the following purposes:

1. To provide a basis for coordinated amateur and professional archaeology in Illinois
2. To promote conservation of archaeological sites in Illinois
3. To act as a depository of archaeological information to the public
4. To promote ethical standard in Illinois archaeology
5. To provide training in archaeological methods and theory to interested persons.

The council met annually and issued a

The Council was active for the first year after its formation, and then gradually became inactive for a number of reasons, which included the relocation out-of-state of several key members.. Even so, it became apparent to the Council members that the Council was very limited in its operation, and could not successfully carry out its purposes. What was needed was a larger organization with the same purposes and goals, but with a structure that included elected officers and directors, open membership, viable and widely disseminated publications, and sufficient resources to operate successfully. The Council existed until the formation of the IAAA in 1969, whereupon the Council terminated its existence.

The effort to form the IAAA was initiated by Jerry Elliston in the fall of 1967. In a series of letters to Dr. Stuart Struever, Northwestern University; Dr. Emily Blasingham, Illinois State Museum; Charles Bareis, University of Illinois; and other professional archaeologists, he solicited ideas, the names of prospective amateur archaeologists, and support for such an effort. The responses were very positive. Jerry planned and organized a meeting to investigate the formation of an organization that he tentatively called the "Illinois Association for





Lay Archaeologists.” The meeting notice read:

Dear Friend:

You are cordially invited to attend a meeting of lay and professional archaeologists to be held at the Mansion View Motel, 529 South 4th Street, Springfield, Ill, Sunday July 21, 1968 at 3:00 p.m. The purpose is to discuss the forming of a statewide organization of archaeologists. . . .

Sincerely,

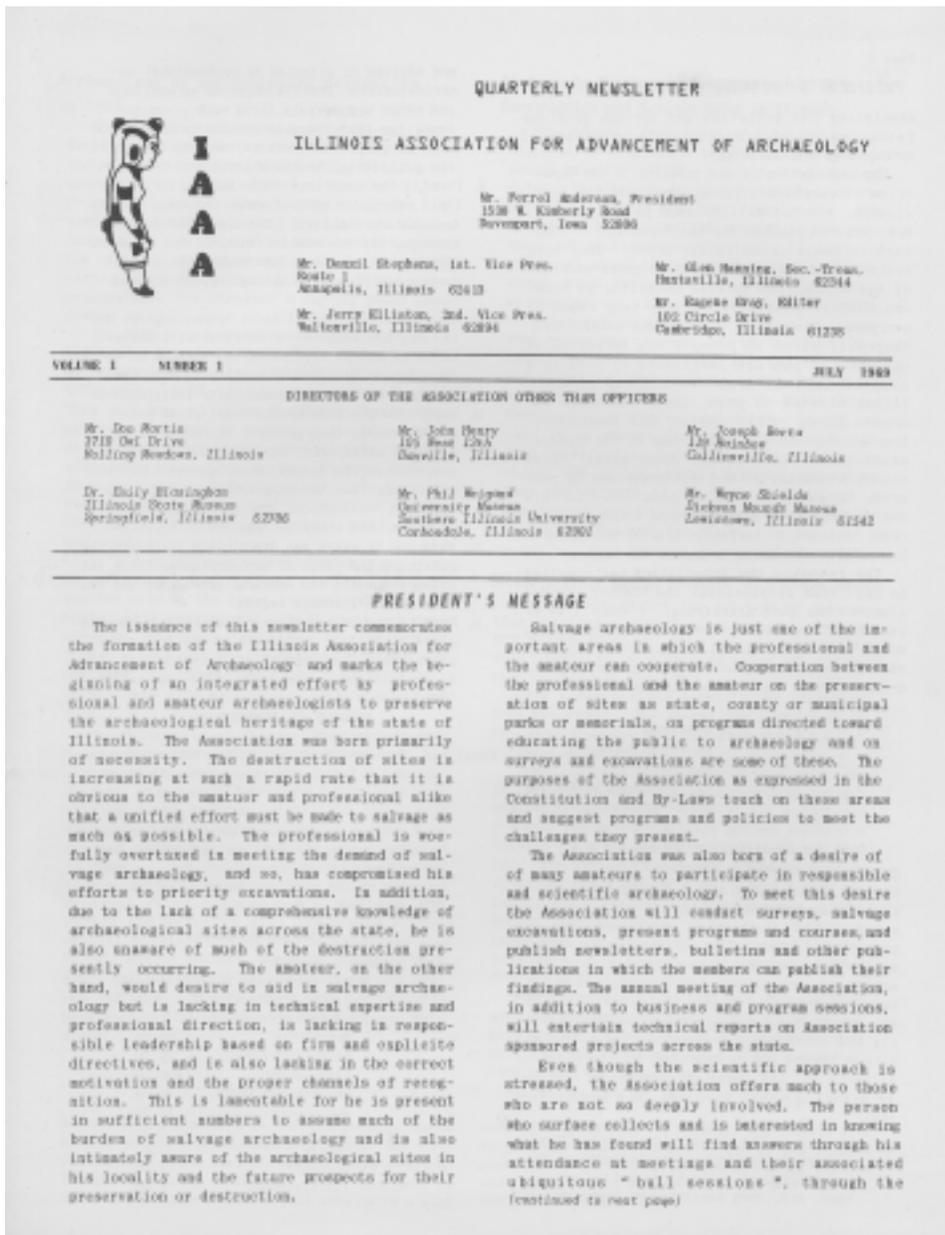
Jerry Elliston,

Acting Secretary, Organizing Committee

Jerry sent out over 100 invitations, and 26 people attended the meeting. These individuals constitute the organizing body of the Association. They are: Richard Ade, Ferrel Anderson, Emily Blasingham, Leonard Blake, Danny Kent Dees, Dennis Downey, Jerry Elliston, Mrs. Jerry Elliston, Charlotte Gilmore, Robert Hall, Glen Hanning, Mary Hanning, Melvin Heil, Dorthy Heil, S. Kluge, Don Martin, Mrs. Don Martin, Robert Mihall, Gail Schroeder, Wayne Seivern, Wayne Shields, Richard Slattery, Lee Slider, Duane Smith, Louis Spinner, Steven Spinner, Denzil Stephens, and Nina Trees.

Jerry opened the meeting with an inspiring appeal to form an organization of “lay archaeologists that would be dedicated to the preservation of the record of prehistory,” and that would “cooperate with professional archaeologist whenever possible.” Such a group of archaeologists would “encourage people to take a more scientific attitude toward the relics of prehistory if they were part of an association of like-minded people.” Jerry was elected Acting Chairman of the Forming Committee. He appointed Ferrel Anderson as the Chairman of the Organizational Committee and Don Martin as the Acting Secretary. A long discussion about what to call the organization resulted in the name “Society for Illinois Archaeology.” The Organizational Committee was asked to consider this name and other candidate names and offer a recommendation at the next meeting.

The Organizational Committee Met on November 3, 1968, at the State Museum, and reported its recommendations to people attending a meeting at the Illinois Archeology Workshop at the University of Illinois on December 7, 1968. The minutes of this meeting summarize the report of the committee:



The first IAAA Quarterly Newsletter, July 1969.

The meeting was called to order by Jerry Elliston, acting chairman of the forming committee of the Society for Illinois Archaeology, at 4:50p.m, following the afternoon meetings of the Illinois Archaeological Survey Workshop. The meeting was attended by 47 persons, names of which are listed separately. After his introductory remarks, Mr. Elliston turned the meeting over to Ferrel Anderson, chairman of the organizational committee.

Mr. Anderson outlined the committee’s activities since the initial meeting in July. He stated that he and his committee members studied the constitutions of 21 state archaeological organizations throughout the United States, and then met to discuss the merits of these various charters, constitution, and by-laws. Following this, the committee formulated a constitution to be discussed at this meeting. The committee also submitted a name for the proposed society, being the “Society for Illinois Archaeology.” (Organizational Committee Report, December 7, 1968)

The proposed constitution and by-laws were read to the attendees, and each article was discussed after it was read. Dr. Struever, Dr. Hall, Dr. Winter, and several other attendees made many constructive recommendations on the proposed constitution, and also offered additional advice. They advised that the new organization should establish a good

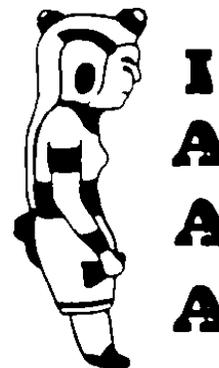


relationship with existing archaeological societies, and that a close relationship should be established with Illinois archaeologists, with society members being of service. They also recommended that careful records of all activities be kept, and that an editor be chosen to supervise all reports and publications. It was also suggested that a regular newsletter should be published to keep members informed. The attendees then voted that the constitution and by-laws be revised according to the recommendations, and that it be presented for approval to the attendees at a meeting to be held in the spring of 1969.

The meeting was held in Springfield on May 24, 1969. The formation of the IAAA was completed at this meeting. The result of the meeting was the adoption of an official name, a constitution and by-laws, and an elected slate of officers and directors. The official name was, of course, the "Illinois Association for Advancement of Archaeology". The name "Society for Illinois Ar-

chaeology" was not approved because its acronym "SIA" was the same as an existing organization. The founding slate of officers and directors were:

President: Ferrel Anderson
 First Vice President: Denzil Stephens
 Second Vice President: Jerry Elliston
 Secretary-Treasurer: Glen Hanning
 Editor: Gene Gray
 Directors:
 Joe Berta
 Emily Blaisingham
 John Henry
 Don Martin
 Wayne Shields
 Bill Weiganand



The purposes of the Association and the terms of membership as embodied in the approved constitution and by-laws are reproduced following this article.

The influence of the Council for Archaeology on the formation of the IAAA was profound. Five of the IAAA officers and directors were members of the Council. In addition, the purposes of the IAAA were essentially the same, although expanded, as those of the Council. The high ethical standards of the IAAA are attributed to the professional ethics that were incorporated by the Council for Illinois Archaeology through the influence of the IAS and amateur archaeologists. The formation of the IAAA was exciting, and bode well for the future of archaeology in Illinois.



Left, Eugene Gray, first editor of *Illinois Antiquity*, at the Koster site 1970
 (near center, Tom Cook; right, Janet Brashler)

To be continued.....

*Ferrel Anderson, the first president of the IAAA, is currently President of the Quad Cities Chapter and a member of the IAAA Board of Directors, and a member of the Iowa Archaeological Society Board of Directors. When not engaged in archaeological activities, he earns his living as a chemical engineer working for the US Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity in Rock Island, Illinois.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

In 1993, Duane Esarey, then the editor of *Illinois Antiquity*, asked me to write a history of the IAAA for the 25th anniversary of the organization. I was selected because of my involvement in the formation of the IAAA, and because of my participation in earlier efforts to form an amateur and professional organization in Illinois. I was also selected because I was almost the only surviving member of the "early" days, which is even more true today, some five years later. My apologies to Duane for not meeting the deadline in 1994!

I would like to make two requests: First, if any of you have interesting information and photographs depicting key characters and events, please inform me of them, and I will make arrangements to include them in subsequent parts of our history. Second, I need to know about the accomplishments of IAAA individuals and chapters. Many of these have not found their way into the record. I can be reached at 309-782-7801 during work hours, and at 319-324-0257 in the evening and on weekends. My address is 1923 E. 13th Street, Davenport, IA 52803.





FROM THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION FOR ADVANCEMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The Illinois Association for Advancement of Archaeology founded to unite all persons interested in the archaeology of Illinois for the purposes of preserving ethnohistorical information and prehistoric and historic aboriginal artifacts and sites, encouraging and participating in the scientific investigation, study, and interpretation of these remains, and fostering and encouraging a constructive public attitude toward the archaeology of the State of Illinois and immediate contiguous regions. In pursuing these purposes this Association shall:

1. Sponsor on the Chapter level scientifically conducted literature surveys; surveys of archaeological collections and sites; salvage, and when warranted by proven ability and advised or directed by professional anthropologists, problem oriented excavations; and other appropriate field work — on the condition that these activities be accompanied by proper collections, records, reports, and publication in the scientific literature.
2. Provide the opportunity for members to attend field schools conducted under the auspices of Association chapters, the State Association, museums, and educational institutions of which they can learn the proper techniques for research and recording archaeological information.
3. Cooperate with the Illinois Archaeological Survey and professional archaeological institutions by always conducting the affairs of the Association in a manner conforming with the programs of the Survey and these institutions.
4. Report to the Illinois Archaeological Survey (on the forms they provide) all known archaeological sites; and, through a Board of advisors, inform the Survey, other professional institutions, and the Association of local discoveries, collections, the pending destruction of sites, and other information of interest.
5. Endeavor in every way practicable to inform the public of the value of archaeological sites and collections for cultural prehistory and history of the Illinois region.
6. Promote the preservation of important archaeological site and artifacts by all appropriate means, including support and initiation of proper legislation on the local, state and national level.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any person or institution whose purposes and policies are in concert with those of this Association, and who agree to the terms and qualifications of membership defined in the Constitution and By-Laws may become, upon formal application and payment of the appropriate dues, a member of the Illinois Association for Advancement of Archaeology.